

Claims:

1. A method of selecting cells of base stations of a network for mobile telecommunications for soft-handover connection with a mobile user terminal so as to provide at a first network node multiple received representations of a data frame from the mobile user terminal (20) within a predetermined period, or each cell delay due to transfer of a representation of the received data frame across interface between network nodes along a transfer path to said first network node is estimated by determining the contribution to the delay caused by each interface along the transfer path,
10 cells being selected dependent upon the associated delays.
2. A method of selecting cells according to claim 1, for inclusion in an active set of cells in soft-handover connection.
3. A method of selecting cells according to claim 1, for inclusion in a set of cells to be monitored as to radio quality for possible inclusion in an active set of cells in soft-handover connection.
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4. A method of selecting cells according to claim 1, wherein cells are selected dependent on factors comprising the delay estimated, the received signal quality and the radio resources available.
- 20 5. A method of selecting cells according to claim 1, wherein each cell estimated as providing a representation of the received data frame that arrives at said first network node later than a predetermined time after the first of the representations of the received data frame is not selected.

6. A network for mobile telecommunications comprising a selector operative to select cells of base stations for soft-handover connection with a mobile user terminal so as to provide at a first network node multiple received representations of a data frame from the mobile user terminal within a 5 predetermined period,

and further comprising delay estimation means operative to estimate, for each cell, delay due to transfer of a representation of the received data frame across interface between network nodes along a transfer path to said first network node by determining the contribution to the 10 delay caused by each interface along the transfer path,

the selector being operative to select cells dependent upon the associated delays.
7. A network for mobile telecommunications according to claim 6, wherein the selector is operative to select cells for inclusion in an active set of cells in 15 soft-handover connection.
8. A network for mobile telecommunications according to claim 7, wherein the selector is operative to select cells for inclusion in a set of cells to be monitored as to radio quality for possible inclusion in an active set of cells in soft-handover connection.
- 20 9. A network for mobile telecommunications according to claim 6, wherein the selector is operative to select cells dependent on factors comprising the delay estimated, the received signal quality and the radio resources available.
10. A network for mobile telecommunications according to claim 6, wherein the selector is operative such that each cell providing a representation of the received data 25 frame that arrives at said first network node later than a predetermined time after the first of the representations of the received data frame is not selected.